

DWR NEWS | *People*

WINTER 2005



Left to Right: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Project Engineer **Thien Vu** along with DWR's Flood Management staff of the Flood Project's Office - **Noel Lerner**, Section Chief, **Deborah Condon**, Project Manager and **Rod Mayer**, Office Chief review the plans and construction site at River Mile 56.7 on the Sacramento River while the barge in the background applies riprap to the river bank for protection against erosion.
(*Not in photo:* **Anna Hegedus**, Branch Chief and **Tim Kerr**, Project Manager for the American River Common Features Project)

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On Sunday, November 21, 2004, *The Sacramento Bee* printed in the Forum Section a Special to the Bee column written by **Director Lester A. Snow**. The column titled, "Awash in flood issues," is featured below.

by Lester Snow, Director, Department of Water Resources

From court rulings to development, the state is deluged with problems on managing water threats.

California faces a potential flood management "perfect storm" — the result of several conditions that threaten public safety and our state's economic well-being.

The state's 100-year-old flood-protection system is deteriorating. Our growing population is pushing new housing developments and job centers into many areas that may be susceptible to flooding. Yet at the same time, federal, state and local funding to maintain, repair and upgrade the state's flood-protection infrastructure has sharply declined.

Compounding these challenges is a recent court ruling that holds the state liable for flood-related damages caused by levee failures. Together, these factors threaten to overwhelm the state's flood-management system with potentially disastrous consequences for our people, property, economy and environment.

A closer look at these conditions underscores the serious threat facing millions of Californians.

Flood-plain development

Growth pressures, especially in the Central Valley, are pushing residential and business development into many areas that may be vulnerable to flooding. In some cases, land-use decisions are based on outdated information about the true flood threat. For example, many flood maps used by public agencies and the general public are decades old and do not reflect the most accurate information about the potential for flooding.

When these new developments are approved without a clear understanding of the flood risk, public safety and property are placed in jeopardy.

Infrastructure upgrade

As originally constructed, the system was built largely to protect agriculture, but today the system is increasingly called upon to protect people living in the flood plains.

The Central Valley flood system alone includes 1,600 miles of levees, protects 3.5 million people, farmland and an investment of \$47 billion in homes and businesses. Much of California's flood-control system of levees and channels was designed and built almost a century ago. Between 1986 and 2003, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluated more than 1,000 miles of these levees in the Sacramento River Flood Control Project and found 89 miles of levees in need of significant repairs. The estimated cost at the time was \$145 million. While about \$100 million of those repairs have been completed, the evaluation used criteria that the Corps since has updated based on new technologies. Repairing levees to meet these new standards will require a significantly greater investment.

Budget cuts

Federal, state and local budgets for flood-management activities have been cut in recent years. As a result, parts of the system are in real need of repairs and improvements. To illustrate, in the 1980s, the average cost to repair levees was about \$300 a linear foot and the state had no backlog of maintenance sites. Today, there are about 200 known erosion sites in the Central Valley, totaling 120,000 linear feet. With an average cost of repair now at \$5,000 per linear foot, the price tag for these repairs stands at \$600 million.

Liability

Two recent court cases—*Paterno v. State of California* and *Arreola v. Monterey County*—found the state and other public agencies liable for damages from flooding. The 2003 *Paterno* decision found that when a public entity operates a flood control system built by someone else, it accepts liability as if it had planned and built the system itself.

In this particular case, the state was held liable for the 1986 failure of a Yuba County levee that flooded the community of Linda. In the *Arreola v. Monterey County* decision of 2002, local agencies were held liable for flood damages to property owners in 1995 that resulted from a failure to properly maintain the Pajaro River project.

These decisions show that failure to provide additional funding for levee repair and maintenance now puts taxpayers at substantial financial risk in the future.

Faced with these compelling challenges, policy-makers at all levels of government must respond with collaborative initiatives and workable solutions. The first steps must include improved maintenance programs, a more methodical system of evaluating levees and better emergency response. To accomplish these tasks, California needs a sustainable funding strategy, possibly including a state flood insurance program.

Following a series of hearings by the Legislature last year, the Department of Water Resources, as directed, prepared a policy paper on California's flood management issues. In addition to outlining the current state of our flood protection system, the paper will recommend a series of strategies to address these mounting problems. The document will be presented to the Legislature in January 2005, with the goal of launching an important and much-needed dialogue on new, aggressive approaches to improve our flood protection system.

Effective flood management is essential to protect our residents, communities, economy, agriculture, industry and environment. Maintaining the status quo is not an option. Nor can we succeed by adopting a piecemeal approach to these challenges. Now is the time for us to put aside our differences and work together to develop an action plan that protects people, properties and our state's economy.

To view the Flood Management White Paper, visit the DWR

Web site at: <http://www.water.ca.gov>



DWR'S FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Prepares for Winter Flood Season

by Pete Weisser

Preventing floods in California's Central Valley is always a big job. But in 2005, DWR flood managers say, the usual natural dangers are accompanied by tight constraints on maintenance activities, liability-boosting court decisions, lean budgets, thinner staffing, and an aging flood control system.

Meantime, California's bustling human population and ceaseless economic development continue growing at a dizzying pace, often in historic floodplains.

"We are as dedicated as ever to preventing floods and responding effectively to those that may occur," said **Rod Mayer**, Chief of the Flood Projects Office in the Division of Flood Management (DFM). "But several factors—legal, environmental, and budgetary—combine to make this an increasingly tough challenge."

Under policy guidance of The Reclamation Board and day-to-day guidance from the Board's General Manager, **Peter Rabbon**, DFM provides staff support to carry out the Board's responsibilities for cooperating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in developing federal flood control projects in the Central Valley and controlling encroachments on levees and in project floodways.

Photos by DWR Photography Unit



Top: The Sacramento River Bank Protection Project's Mile 56.7 is shown before erosion repair. (Photo by Tim Kerr) **Above:** During the Flood Management Workshop on November 9 and 10 at the Sacramento Convention Center, the topic titled "Rethinking the Flood Control System – What Are the Keys?" was covered by (Left to Right) **Mark Charlton** of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, **Chris White** of the Central California Irrigation District, **Rod Mayer** of DWR's Flood Management, and **Joe Countryman** of MBK Engineers. **Stuart Leavenworth** (not in photo) of *The Sacramento Bee* was the moderator.

Jeffrey Mount, an expert on rivers and flooding and a member of The Reclamation Board, said that the Central Valley flood control system is in a "state of decay," mostly unchanged from 1997 when one of Northern California's biggest floods occurred.



Jeffrey Mount, Professor of Geology of the University of California, Davis and Reclamation Board Member, spoke during lunch at the Flood Management Conference. He spoke about "The Perils of Static Flood Management in a Dynamic Landscape."

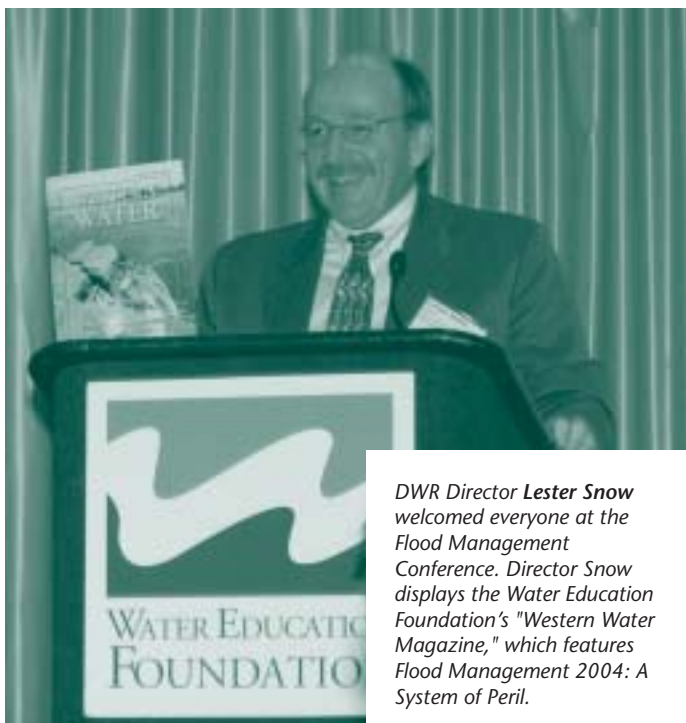
"We're asking our current flood control system, which is out of date, to do what it cannot do," contends Mount, a Geology professor at UC Davis, and author of a highly regarded book on California rivers.

Strategies to Improve System

In the fall of 2004, besides doing all the usual and customary flood season preparations, DFM flood experts researched and prepared a "white paper" on flood management.

Noting that a recent court decision exposed the State's General Fund to billions of dollars of potential liability, the white paper documents a "crisis in flood management" and recommends a range of strategies to resolve that crisis.

One of the more important strategies would be to create a sustainable fund to pay for flood control projects, improved maintenance, and more effective emergency response.



DWR Director **Lester Snow** welcomed everyone at the Flood Management Conference. Director Snow displays the Water Education Foundation's "Western Water Magazine," which features *Flood Management 2004: A System of Peril*.



At the American River Common Features Project near Campus Commons, the levee is being reinforced to prevent erosion to meet FEMA's certification requirements for a 100-year level of protection. The repair consisted of placing riprap on the levee slope and constructing a rock trench at the waterside toe. The entire repair was covered with soil and seeded with native grasses. This photo was taken from the Guy West Bridge. (Photo by Tim Kerr)

Problems Facing Flood Managers

Flood managers identify many problems that require creative solutions.

The Central Valley flood control system—an ingenious combination of levees, channels and weirs—is aging and was not constructed to contemporary engineering standards. Most of it was built in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century. Many levees are composed of earth dredged from rivers and placed on foundations subject to seepage.

Studies have been done to detect weak spots and remedial work has been done on parts of the system. But a new systematic evaluation is needed. As the June 3 failure of a private levee in the Delta showed, failures can occur unpredictably and with little warning. As development crowds floodplains with shopping malls, homes, schools, and other urban growth, the economic scale and human impacts of levee failures increase dramatically.

Since the 1970s, laws to protect the environment, especially endangered species, have complicated and slowed levee and channel maintenance. Rising costs of mitigation now make bank erosion repair very expensive, typically \$5,000 per linear foot for repairs on the Sacramento River. That's up sharply from a \$300-a-foot rate in the mid-1980s and even the \$2,500 per linear foot costs of the mid-1990s.

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Les Harder appointed new Chief of the Division of Flood Management



Les Harder was appointed as the new Chief of the Division of Flood Management, effective November 8, 2004.

Les started with DWR in 1976 as a Graduate Student Assistant and has held several positions

since then. Most recently, Les served for more than seven years as the Chief of the Division of Engineering. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Davis. He obtained his Doctoral degree in Geotechnical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley while working part-time for DWR in the mid-1980s.

Les has also served on numerous post-earthquake reconnaissance investigations looking into the performance of earth structures, such as dams and levees following major earthquake shaking.

He has worked on several levee and aqueduct emergency repairs and was heavily involved with response to the 1997 and 1998 floods. Most recently, Les was involved with the four emergency construction contracts associated with repairing Jones Tract. Les has served on several joint State-Federal committees on levee seepage design criteria, including the 1998 PL84-99 Levee Review Board, 1999-2002 Levee Review Group, and the 2003 Levee Seepage Task Force.

"Moving to a division associated principally with Public Safety and the General Fund will be a new challenge for me," said Les. "The current crisis in flood management is an awesome problem, but also an opportunity to try to make things a lot better, and I'm looking forward to working on it with the people in Flood Management and The Reclamation Board."



Barges at Mile 56.7 were used to place 65,000 tons of rock along the levee.

Court Decisions on Liability

Two recent California court decisions have dramatically increased the fiscal liability of public agencies for flood damages.

In *Arreola v. Monterey County*, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeal ruled that local flood control agencies can be held liable for project failures attributable to a deliberate failure to maintain the system.

In *Paterno v. State of California*, the Third District Court of Appeal held the State liable for damages from a 1986 Yuba County levee failure attributed to defects in a levee foundation that existed when the levee was built by local agricultural interests in 1905, and which had not been corrected when the levee was modified by the Corps of Engineers in 1934 and 1940, or when the State incorporated it within its flood control system in 1953. The court concluded that the State was aware of a risk of failure from the levee, or could have learned of such a risk, through inspection.

Bustling Floodplains

According to DWR flood managers, the 1,600 miles of levees in the Central Valley Flood system protect 3.5 million people, 200,000 structures valued (in 2002) at \$47 billion, and 2 million farmland acres producing \$1.8 billion in crops annually.

Floodplain development seems relentless in California's great interior valleys.

Pro-development land use decisions by local governments cost the State in two ways: first, the need to protect development increases demands for State-paid flood protection, and, second, by increasing State fiscal liability for areas that secure protection in the Central Valley levee system.

In November, DWR, The Reclamation Board, and the Water Education Foundation sponsored a two-day Flood Management Workshop at the Sacramento Convention Center. The workshop featured discussions and presentations by leading flood experts.

placed an immense challenge at our doorstep—to create a flood management system that can protect not only today’s population, but tomorrow’s population, as well. Many experts believe grand scale actions will be required to meet tomorrow’s flood management needs.”

Budget Shrinkage

While private sector real estate investments in valley development rose robustly, the State’s financial health was short-circuited by the electrical energy crisis of 2001, triggering major deficits in the State’s General Fund for ensuing years.

A major Reclamation Board and Federal evaluation of the Central Valley flood control system in 2002 found that the Sacramento/San Joaquin rivers flood control system “cannot safely convey the flows it was formerly capable of accommodating.”

Commented Rabbon, General Manager of The Reclamation Board: “The rapidly developing floodplains have



(Left to Right) At the Flood Management Conference, **Curt Aikens** of Yuba County Water Agency and **Pete Rabbon** of the Reclamation Board spoke on the panel that addressed “The Disconnect Between Land Use Decisions and Financial Consequences.” Other panel members (not in photo) included **Yvonne Hunter** of the League of California Cities, **Jim Ray** of the California Building Industry Association, and Panel Moderator **Scott Shapiro** of Downey Brand, LLP.

Like many other programs relying on the General Fund, DWR’s flood management activities were hit hard. General Fund dollars available for flood management activities declined by about 30 percent in the past several years. Staffing levels have declined similarly.

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Rod Mayer, Chief of the Flood Project Office in DWR’s Flood Management, has worked in flood management for the past eight years.



Due to the steepness of the levee at the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project's Mile 56.7, more rock will be placed approximately 20 feet up the slope. (Photo by Tim Kerr)

Staffing Changes

Symbolic of recent staffing changes was the July 2004 departure of DFM Chief **Stein Buer** to take the top job at the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA). Mayer was appointed Acting Chief until **Les Harder**, former Division of Engineering Chief, was appointed Chief of the Division of Flood Management in November. Also departing in July were other flood veterans, including **Gary Hester**, a senior hydrologist, and **Allen Romero**, a top flood management supervisor in the Sacramento region for almost 20 years, who both retired.

Flood Season Preparations

Despite these developments, DFM managers and staff prepared vigorously for the 2005 flood season.

Mid-winter rainy months pose the biggest flood risks for Northern California's valleys. Primary focus for DWR is flood prevention in the Central Valley, along two of California's longest river systems—the Sacramento and San Joaquin. The Delta, with its maze of waterways and sunken islands, is another major focal point. Rainy weather, high river inflows, tidal action and soggy levees are big factors in Delta flood protection planning.

Through the final months of 2004, DFM managers and staff accomplished their usual and customary flood liaison and seasonal planning conferences with other flood-oriented agencies, including The Reclamation Board, U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, US Bureau of Reclamation, regional flood agencies, SAFCA, reclamation districts, other public safety agencies and emergency response units.

Flood fight classes have been given to train workers on flood-fighting strategy and tactics. On October 14-15, for example, **Rick Burnett**, DWR's Flood Fight Specialist, conducted flood fight training in Sacramento for DWR employees.

Public awareness of flood management challenges was heightened in September when the Water Education Foundation published a special flood edition of its magazine, *Western Water*. Rabbon, Mayer, Mount, Buer and other flood experts were extensively quoted in advocating improved funding and more effective flood management efforts.

In November, DWR, The Reclamation Board, and the Water Education Foundation sponsored a two-day Flood Management Workshop at the Sacramento Convention Center. The workshop featured discussions and presentations by leading flood experts.

Under the direction of Flood Operations Chief **Jay Punia**, the Flood Center on El Camino Avenue is ready to activate in case of major Northern California flooding.

"We'll be as ready and prepared as it's possible for us to be, given the various challenges and limitations that exist," said Mayer.



During DWR's Flood Fight Training, participants learn how to apply visquine plastic sheeting for wave wash and slope protection during high water events.



This photo is of an American River Common Features Project FEMA Erosion Repair at River Park. The repair consisted of placing riprap on the levee slope and covering the site with soil. In the photo, straw and erosion control waddles are shown protecting the freshly seeded slope. This photo was taken from the Campus Commons Golf Course. (Photo by Tim Kerr)

Peter Rabbon, Reclamation Board General Manager, Elected to Lead National Flood Management Group



Peter D. Rabbon, General Manager of California's Reclamation Board, is the new President of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA). He was elected in September at the association's annual meeting, which this year was held in Monterey.

A national non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., NAFSMA represents local and state flood and stormwater management agencies on federal water resource issues. Established in 1978, NAFSMA works closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Department of Homeland Security, and represents association members on policy matters with Congress and other national water organizations.

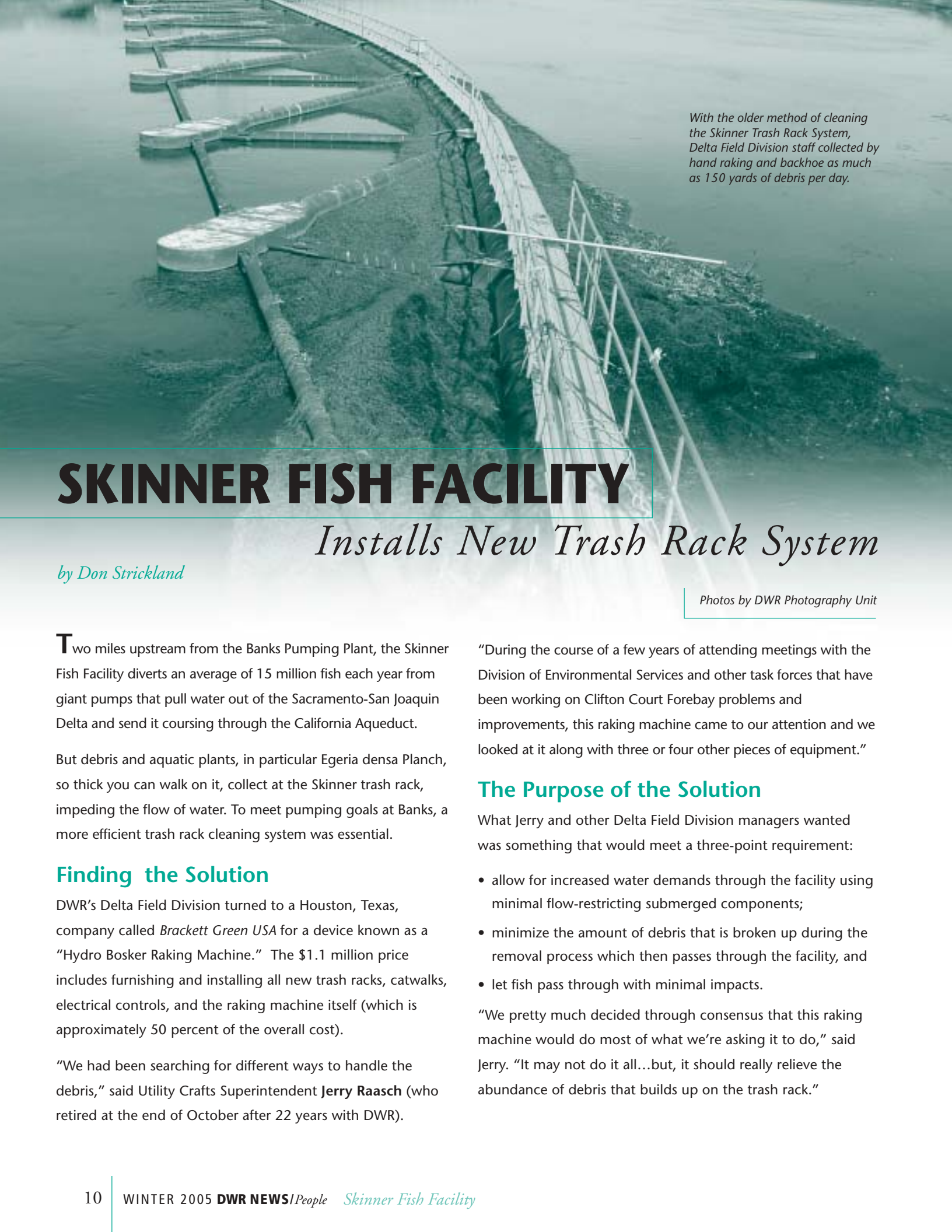
Pete is a practicing civil engineer registered in California, Nevada, and Oregon. A veteran water resources engineer, Pete earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees at the University of California, Davis. He has worked in the private sector, in county government and for almost 25 years for the State of California, with about a decade of service in DWR's Division of Flood Management.

He has been The Reclamation Board's General Manager since September of 1997.

The Reclamation Board is a seven-member board with State responsibility for flood control activities in the Central Valley. The Governor appoints the board members.

The Central Valley is approximately 450 miles long and 50 miles wide. Drained via the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers—two of California's longest—and their tributaries, the Central Valley's drainage area encompasses about 45,000 square miles.

"NAFSMA is an influential group in advocating effective flood control and storm water policy nationally," said Pete. "My election is an honor but more importantly an opportunity for California, with our extensive flood expertise, to make a leadership contribution on national flood and stormwater issues."



With the older method of cleaning the Skinner Trash Rack System, Delta Field Division staff collected by hand raking and backhoe as much as 150 yards of debris per day.

SKINNER FISH FACILITY

Installs New Trash Rack System

by Don Strickland

Photos by DWR Photography Unit

Two miles upstream from the Banks Pumping Plant, the Skinner Fish Facility diverts an average of 15 million fish each year from giant pumps that pull water out of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and send it coursing through the California Aqueduct.

But debris and aquatic plants, in particular *Egeria densa* Planch, so thick you can walk on it, collect at the Skinner trash rack, impeding the flow of water. To meet pumping goals at Banks, a more efficient trash rack cleaning system was essential.

Finding the Solution

DWR's Delta Field Division turned to a Houston, Texas, company called *Brackett Green USA* for a device known as a "Hydro Bosker Raking Machine." The \$1.1 million price includes furnishing and installing all new trash racks, catwalks, electrical controls, and the raking machine itself (which is approximately 50 percent of the overall cost).

"We had been searching for different ways to handle the debris," said Utility Crafts Superintendent **Jerry Raasch** (who retired at the end of October after 22 years with DWR).

"During the course of a few years of attending meetings with the Division of Environmental Services and other task forces that have been working on Clifton Court Forebay problems and improvements, this raking machine came to our attention and we looked at it along with three or four other pieces of equipment."

The Purpose of the Solution

What Jerry and other Delta Field Division managers wanted was something that would meet a three-point requirement:

- allow for increased water demands through the facility using minimal flow-restricting submerged components;
- minimize the amount of debris that is broken up during the removal process which then passes through the facility, and
- let fish pass through with minimal impacts.

"We pretty much decided through consensus that this raking machine would do most of what we're asking it to do," said Jerry. "It may not do it all...but, it should really relieve the abundance of debris that builds up on the trash rack."

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—Jerry Raasch

rake, conveyor, and debris loading system. It provides 24-hour coverage and operates automatically. A single worker can also control it manually using a wireless remote or plug-in pendant. The machine promises to greatly ease manpower demands created by the weed buildup.

The Problem and its Impact

"Depending on weather conditions and pumping situations, we can get as much as 200 yards of this debris in a given day," said Pat.

"We've been able to keep it clear most of the time," said Pat. "However, it can mat up

to a thickness of three or four feet on top of the water and it will hold the weight of a person. It can also build up enough on the trash racks that the Fish Facility crew has to completely stop the flow of water through the bay in order to remove it. The overall effect is that scheduled water deliveries are not met. We have ten people working shifts and a supervisor here, but when the weed problem is at its worst, we sometimes need as many as five or six extra people per day...as well as weed harvesters working the primary channel to collect the weed before it reaches the trash rack."

"This trash raking system represents our best attempt to meet specific criteria that will achieve debris removal with less labor without having to curtail pumping," said Delta Division Engineering Supervisor **Pat Whitlock**.

The Bosker Raking Machine does the work of three conventional machines: trash



*Above: (Left to Right) **Jim Odom** and **Jerry Raasch** watch as full rake of debris is moved to the hauling vehicle. **Left: Jerry Raasch**, who retired from Delta Field Division's Skinner Fish Facility in 2004, and **Jim Odom**, who has managed Skinner Fish Facility during the last six years, stand at walk way, which was built for observation and operation and maintenance of the system.*

Utility Crafts Civil Maintenance Supervisor **Jim Odom** has been managing the Skinner Fish Facility for six of his 18 years at the plant. "Through the years the problem has progressed to the point that we now have a weed season that runs from October through April," said Jim. "In years past it would be over in three to four weeks and we'd be able to handle it. Last year, we went three to five months fighting this problem. That took a major personnel effort, including bringing in harvester crews and helper crews from other field divisions just to keep the water going through the trash racks."

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Jim said, "This new unit is expected to let us salvage fish around the clock, while it's cleaning around the clock, without undue overtime by outside sources. We may have to aid its ability sometimes in peak situations, but because it's a fully-automated 24/7 operation in itself, we should be able to keep up with the debris situations as they arise. That allows our personnel to stay in the buildings to salvage and care for the fish."

Several different types of aquatic plants grow throughout the Delta and as the weather changes and the water cools, the weeds die off, break free and end up in the forebay and pumping operation.

One reason the Delta weed problem has worsened is a side effect of tougher environmental laws which place more restrictions on aquatic herbicide use in the waterways, making it difficult to control the aquatic plants. At the same time, there are many environmental regulations which must be met during the fish capture.

"The Skinner Fish Facility is required to operate under mandated biological opinions as a result of the Endangered Species Act," said Jerry.

"That brings into play various agencies including the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries, and several other agencies that have a role in protecting the marine fisheries."

"To salvage these fish, we have to follow certain criteria set forth in the biological opinions. One condition is that the water flow at a certain volume and speed through the louvers and the secondary system so the fish can pass safely. When there's a great deal of debris in the water, we end up handling debris to the detriment of the fish. So, it's tremendously important that we take the debris out of

"This new unit is expected to let us salvage fish around the clock, while it's cleaning around the clock, without undue overtime by outside sources. We may have to aid its ability sometimes in peak situations, but because it's a fully-automated 24/7 operation in itself, we should be able to keep up with the debris situations as they arise."

—Jim Odom

the water before the fish come through."

On a busy night, 250,000 to 500,000 fish are processed through Skinner. Several types are covered under the Endangered Species Act. One is the winter run salmon. Another is the Delta smelt. Several other species must be salvaged and examined by Skinner personnel and records maintained.

"We know we can move the weed and we know can move the water," said Jim. "Our target is to salvage the fish in such a way that they are not affected any more than they



The Skinner trash rack system helps the facility deal with as much as 200 yards of debris each day.

To successfully divert the fish, the secondary bays are being cleaned to remove debris before the fish are collected in the fish holding tanks. Due to the increase in debris, this has become a daily rather than weekly assignment.



would be on a normal day. When the debris gets so heavy that we can't handle these fish safely, then we are required to slow the flow of water through the pumps."

"Based on the last couple of years, we anticipate the weed problem is only going to get worse," said Pat. "Combine that with the probability of increased flows at Banks Pumping Plant and it's obvious we need a better weapon to meet these challenges. The new trash rack gives us that weapon."

Delta Field Division staff thanks the Division of Engineering for all of their work on this new system. The new trash rake was furnished and installed via a DOE contract 04-02 managed by **Gordon Enas**. The installation of the trash rake was managed by **Jim Peddy** and construction supervision by **Tom Higgins**.

Although the implementation of the trash rake system within conditions present at the Fish Facility has brought significant challenges, DWR staff is performing the research and development necessary to maximize the effectiveness. For example, the design of the gripper is being modified to allow greater penetration into the weeds on the trash rack.

Tom is working tirelessly with Delta Field Division staff to identify the issues and develop solutions to adapt the new trash rake system to the harsh conditions at the Fish Facility. A number of these solutions are in fabrication. Installation and evaluation are anticipated to be complete by the end of January.



This mound of pond weed and debris has become part of normal operation at Skinner Fish Facility. The Facility has from 30 to 300 yards of weed and debris per day, depending on the pumping schedule and weather conditions.

State Water Contractors Profile— **THE BRIDGE OF COMMUNICATION**



*In November, DWR Executive Assistant **Bill Forsythe** describes DWR's proposed State Water Project report to SWC Directors and staff.*

by Margarita Macias

Photos by DWR Photography Unit

Created in 1982, the State Water Contractors (SWC) in Sacramento has served for 22 years as a communications bridge between the Department of Water Resources and 27 of the 29 State Water Project Contractors.

State Water Project Contractors from the City of Yuba in the north to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to the south are represented by the SWC. (The two Contractors not members of the SWC are Butte County and the Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.)

SWC staff has been involved in breakthrough water policy and operations initiatives since **David Schuster**, then a policy-level engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation, was recruited to set up the office in 1982.

"Being involved with the Coordinated Operations Agreement between DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation was the major issue during my initial time as General Manager," said Schuster, now a Sacramento-based consultant whose clients include DWR and the State Water Contractors.

"After 25 years in the making, the signing of the COA meant there was agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and DWR on how the water not used by other water users or to protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the other portions of the San Francisco Bay estuary would be shared between the Central Valley Project and the SWP," said Schuster.

(Under the landmark 1986 Coordinated Operations Agreement, the State Water Project and Central Valley Project coordinate operations to meet Bay-Delta water quality standards and assure that each Project receives an agreed to share of the Central Valley's available water.)

George Baumli, who was General Manager from 1989 to 1994, worked to lessen conflicts arising from water supply and environmental concerns during the drought.

Steve Macaulay, SWC General Manager from 1994 to 1999, was also involved in the implementation of major agreements, including the Bay-Delta Accord and the Monterey Agreement.

"The Monterey Agreement, which was intended to modernize the SWP water supply contracts signed in the 1960s, was

intended to provide expanded, modern water management tools to the SWP users while at the same time addressing longstanding concerns of DWR regarding the water shortage provisions in the contracts,” said Macaulay, who worked 19 years for DWR and now is Executive Director of the California Urban Water Agencies.

(Macaulay, DWR Chief Deputy Director from 1999 to 2003, helped create the Department’s Drought Water Bank in 1991 when he was a Principal Engineer.)

From 1999 to 2004, **John Coburn** was General Manager and he worked with the DWR to focus on business and management issues, in addition to SWP contract activities and Oroville FERC Relicensing.

Terry Erlewine, also a former DWR engineer, currently is General Manager of the State Water Contractors.

“Many people confuse the role of the State Water Contractors,” said Erlewine. “Our office is a clearinghouse for information from DWR to the 27 State Water Contractors. We don’t process the SWP payments or tell the Contractors what to do. We facilitate communication between the Contractors and DWR.”

Operated as a non-profit, mutual benefit corporation, the SWC has its office at 455 Capitol Mall in Sacramento, just a few blocks from DWR headquarters. Erlewine keeps information flowing through personal contact with DWR by the SWC’s staff of six people, and numerous committees.



Left to Right: At the State Water Contractors Board of Directors Meeting on November 18 at the Sterling Hotel in Sacramento, Board President **Russ Fuller** of Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, SWC General Manager **Terry Erlewine**, and Principal Engineer **Eric Chapman** listen to Contractors reports on State Water Project issues.

“The Monterey Agreement, which was intended to modernize the SWP water supply contracts signed in the 1960s, was intended to provide expanded, modern water management tools to the SWP users while at the same time addressing longstanding concerns of DWR regarding the water shortage provisions in the contracts.”

—Steve Macaulay, SWC General Manager from 1994 to 1999

The SWC has several committees, which consist of staff from DWR and the individual Contractors. The committees include the Bay-Delta Workgroup, Contract Issues Committee, Audit-Finance Committee, Bay-Delta Policy Group, Engineering Committee, Environmental Oversight Committee, Information Systems Oversight Committee, Legal Committee, Operations and Maintenance Committee, Planning Committee, Public Affairs Advisory Committee, Municipal Water Quality Investigations Committee, Water Budget Committee, FERC Relicensing Committee, Financial Oversight Committee, and Planning and Conservation League Negotiating Committee.

Obviously, much of the interplay between the SWC and DWR is on budgetary matters, since the State Water Project Contractors pay 94 percent of State Water Project costs, making the SWP the largest State-owned, user-financed water system in the United States.

Committee-developed information is presented to Contractors at monthly Board meetings, usually in Sacramento. The Board consists of nine members who represent each region of the SWP service area. DWR and SWC staff members also attend the Board meetings.

Erlewine joined the SWC as a Staff Engineer in 1994, becoming Assistant General Manager in 2003, and General Manager in 2004. He previously worked as a Supervising Engineer for Bookman-Edmonston Engineering and for DWR’s San Joaquin District. During his 13 years with DWR from 1978 to 1991, he worked on Bulletin 160 (California Water Plan Update) and Kern Water Bank issues. Erlewine has a Master’s Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Davis.

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Left to Right: At the SWC's office on Capitol Mall in Sacramento, Terry Erlewine and his staff Eric Chapman review the information package for their monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Through Erlewine and his staff of six people, the State Water Contractors keep updated on the various aspects of the State Water Project. Along with Erlewine, the SWC staff includes **Eric Chapman, John Coburn, Dee Dillon, Craig Jones, Laura King Moon, and Kathleen O'Rourke.**

Financial and Business

Eric Chapman, former DWR Supervising Engineer, joined the SWC Office in November 2003. After 17 years of working for DWR, Chapman enjoys working closely with DWR staff and Contractors on the financial and business aspects of the State Water Project.

"It is a really different kind of job," said Chapman.

"You have to be flexible. It requires a lot of coordination between both DWR staff and SWC members on the multitude of projects and activities."

As staff liaison for the Audit Finance and the Business Process committees, Chapman's assignment includes reviewing protection of rate management, development of management reports, SWP expenditure tracking, the annual statement of charges, and DWR's enterprise business projects.

Chapman graduated with a Civil Engineering degree from California State University, Fresno in December of 1986. A week later, he joined DWR's San Joaquin District, where he worked on groundwater modeling for the southern San Joaquin Valley. In addition to his assignments as Executive Assistant to two DWR Deputy Directors, Chapman has worked in the Division of Safety of Dams and the Division of Flood Management's Floodplain Planning Branch. During his Flood Management assignment, Chapman was Branch Chief, which

provided an opportunity to learn about planning and managing both Organization Cost Centers (OCC) and Program Cost Centers (PCC).

When Chapman is not busy with financial or business issues, he works on the water transfers and public affairs committees. His other assignments include assisting in the review of SAP's migration project and Phase 2B of the Future Operations Program.

"I feel my past 17 years with DWR provided me with a unique insight into how DWR functions. I hope to utilize my experience to continue helping to build positive communications and working relationships between DWR and the SWC," said Chapman. "We must remember that the SWP Contractors are wholesalers, who work for the good of California citizens – a mission similar to DWR's."

FERC Relicensing

As part of the Ad-Hoc FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) Relicensing Committee, Retired Annuitant **John Coburn** attends frequent meetings on the settlement negotiations and the work group plenary process related to FERC Relicensing of DWR's Oroville Facilities.

Coburn, who was General Manager of the SWC office from 1999 to 2004 and Staff Engineer since 1983, has participated in other major SWP negotiations, including the Joint Powers Agreement and the Monterey Settlement. Before joining the SWC office, Coburn, who graduated from the University of California, Davis, worked for the Bureau of Reclamation for 11 years. He also is a Technical Representative for the Plumas Forum Watershed activities.



"Our office is a good line of communication into the Department at an engineering and technical level," said Coburn of the SWC office.

John Coburn

Operations and Engineering

As a Staff Engineer and advocate for the State Water Contractors, **Dee Dillon** works closely with DWR staff from the Divisions of Engineering and Operations and Maintenance.

Every two months, Dillon meets with the Operations and Maintenance Committee and the Engineering Committee to discuss SWP projects.



Dee Dillon

As the facilitator of these meetings, Dillon directs the forum between DWR and the Contractors, who meet at various locations from field divisions to member agencies.

"This is a unique position," said Dillon. "Typically, I meet with DWR staff and others to get updated on the progress of projects and to voice concerns of the State Water Contractors."

As part of the Operations and Maintenance Committee's extraordinary projects team, Dillon currently is keeping up to date on the Hyatt Powerplant and Edmonston Pumping Plant refurbishment projects.

Two of the Engineering Committee's projects are the South Bay Aqueduct enlargement and the North Bay Aqueduct enlargement study.

Dillon, a native of Claremont, attended the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He then graduated from Cal Poly, Pomona, as a Mechanical Engineer before joining MWD as a Design Engineer. His MWD assignment included designing filtration, pumping, and generation plants. His largest and last project with MWD was Diamond Valley Reservoir before joining the SWC in early 2001.

Dillon is also the Interim General Manager of the State Water Project Contractors Authority, which was created in 2003 to grant the Authority the power necessary to enter into contracts, incur debts and liabilities, to hire staff and consultants, and to issue bonds, notes and other indebtedness.

Power Issues

With more than 34 years in the power industry, **Craig Jones** knows both sides when it comes to energy issues. Since 2000, Jones' assignment has focused on power concerns for the SWC Office. He also worked on Oroville FERC relicensing since 2000.



Craig Jones

To provide useful input on power concerns, Jones participates in weekly conference calls. He reviews week to week strategy on how the SWP system is operated. His primary focus is on power needs, such as additional costs for power to pump water.

Jones is part of the O&M Committee's Energy Subcommittee, the Risk Tolerance Advisory Committee, and the Audit Finance Committee. His current assignments include working on the Post 2004 need and Phase 2B of Future Operations.

In January 2005, the SWP's power contract with Southern California Edison expires and will be replaced with purchases and sales in the California energy market. To complete his assignments, Jones reviews the long-term power portfolio management, the near-term power purchase and sales strategies, and their risk management aspects.

"As part of the team, I'm informed by DWR when they identify the future risks of the power portfolios to the Contractors," said Jones.

"I coordinate the interaction to make sure everyone is aware of the costs and there are no surprises to the Contractors."

A Civil Engineering graduate from Humboldt State University, Jones also received his Master's and Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Utah State University. He has worked for the Utah Water Research Laboratory, UNIES Ltd. Consulting Engineers, Manitoba Hydro, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and the California Independent System Operator.

>>> [continued on next page](#)

Jones has served in a variety of power planning roles. His duties have ranged over a full spectrum of planning assignments, including the development of a long-range resource planning model for a major North American utility and the development of power operating plans, utility marginal cost studies and integrated resource plans. Jones also served as the supervisor of an operating planning unit and a resource planning division.

"My assignment is a mixture of consulting and coordination. You work with a variety of people and various issues from different perspectives," said Jones about his SWC assignment. "You take a variety of duties from advising to taking notes at meetings. It's not what you think of as a traditional job."

Bay-Delta and Government Relations

Laura King Moon joined the SWC staff as a consultant in 2000. However, her assignment in 2003 became Bay-Delta and Government Relations Manager.

Moon's SWC Office assignments have included representing SWC in the negotiation and implementation of the Phase 8 settlement agreement, organizing

Agricultural/Urban coalition support for CALFED Bay-Delta funding, working on the development and passage of Proposition 50, and managing Bay-Delta program budget and consultant contracts on fish screens and other science issues.

"As part of the Bay-Delta Policy Group, I am working various issues, such as increasing Delta export capability and enhancing water transfers capability," said Moon.

After working 17 years on environmental issues and seven years on agricultural/urban issues, Moon's varied background has given her the chance to make contacts throughout California. Moon, who has a Master's Degree in Energy and Resources from the University of California, Berkeley, has worked

as a Senior Staff Scientist for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an Environmental Affairs Officer for East Bay Municipal Utility District, a Special Assistant to the Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation, and Director of Strategic Planning for the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority.

"I am currently organizing a water users group to evaluate CALFED Bay-Delta's project costs for user fees," said Moon.

"However, my main role is to make sure our SWP Contractors are aware of and have a chance to provide input on supply, quality, and costs of SWP water," said Moon. "I have also worked on various outreach projects with our public relations consultant, Ed Ely."

Keeping the Office Operating

To help the SWC staff members complete their assignments, **Kathleen O'Rourke** keeps the essential business systems working.

For the last 14 years, O'Rourke has worked as Executive Secretary for the State Water Contractors. A native of New York, O'Rourke worked 20 years for Pan-American World Airways in various departments and for a year for HDR Engineering in El Dorado Hills before joining the SWC.

As the sole staff member handling administrative and secretarial activities, her assignments vary daily from scheduling conference rooms to paying invoices. She also attends monthly Board meetings.

"It's been great working for the State Water Contractors," said O'Rourke. "The best part of my job has been the knowledge I have gained over the years working in the water industry and meeting so many great people."



Laura King Moon



Kathleen O'Rourke



A Message from

State Water Contractors General Manager Terry Erlewine

The primary interest of the State Water Contractors (SWC), on behalf of 27 of the 29 contractors of the State Water Project (SWP), is an efficient State Water Project. The SWP contractors are the customers of the SWP and are the only major funding source for the Project. While in the past, the SWC concentrated their efforts on the fisheries and environmental aspects of water operations, the SWC has become increasingly interested in the utility operations of the SWP.

Over the past decade, the SWC and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) have developed an increasingly close working partnership on issues related to operation of the SWP. Some spoke of the achievements of this partnership have been DWR's success in more efficiently managing the SWP through availability of the SAP system, especially Phases 2A and 2B which directly affect SWP operations. This partnership has achieved successes in terms of increased operational efficiency over the past five years during a period of challenges including reduced employee numbers, increased water deliveries and increased maintenance demands of aging equipment. Building on the past successes, the SWC are continuing to work with DWR to identify more efficiencies in SWP operations to counteract cost increases in other areas.

A major area of increased interest for both DWR and the SWC in recent years has been energy costs. In addition to increased market prices, DWR's long-term relationship with Southern

California Edison for management of day-to-day energy operations ends in January 2005, bringing new operational responsibilities and increased exposure to cost increases. Although the SWC have worked closely with DWR, assisting in planning for the new energy market, some concerns remain about the depth of DWR's expertise in power operations and DWR's ability to manage sophisticated financial tools such as hedging accounts needed for operation as a major electrical utility.

Finally, the SWC remain very interested in the traditional water planning and policy issues related to fisheries, water rights and Delta concerns. The SWC coordinate with DWR on the CALFED program, which has received increased concern recently with a shift towards user fees and the necessity to identify CALFED program beneficiaries. The other major policy issues facing DWR and the SWC are the increase in permitted export capacity at Banks Pumping Plant which is currently proceeding through the Delta Improvements Package, the ongoing periodic review of the Water Quality Control Plan, completion of the Monterey Plus Environmental Impact Report, and preparation of a settlement package for the Oroville Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.

All in all, the SWC and DWR have challenges on a variety of fronts that require increasing cooperation that builds on past partnerships.

Oroville Facilities Relicensing Program Update

by Lori Brown

After years of public meetings, technical studies, and environmental analysis, the Oroville Facilities Relicensing Program is ready to satisfy a major milestone—submittal of a license application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by January 31, 2005. The application to operate the Oroville Facilities for 50 more years is needed because the original license will expire on January 31, 2007 and the Federal Power Act requires an application be submitted two years in advance.

Why a state-owned facility needs a federal license is explained by Program Manager **Rick Ramirez**: “Whenever any non-federal hydroelectric projects impact navigable waterways, transmits energy on an interstate transmission grid, or impacts federal lands, the FPA grants FERC authority to consider and issue a license with operating conditions that protect the public interest.”

As the major water storage feature and energy resource of the State Water Project, the Oroville Facilities play an important role in delivering affordable water throughout the State for many beneficial purposes. From its initial inception, the Program has had the goal of obtaining a new license that allows DWR to continue delivering affordable water while addressing stakeholder and FERC concerns.

In pursuing this goal, DWR five years ago established relicensing as one of its highest priorities. DWR management with the help of **Mark Andersen** and his Relicensing Coordination Unit from the State Water Project Analysis Office, assembled a team of engineers, biologists, archaeologists, recreation specialists, and others to manage, direct, and lead the effort. The DWR team and consultants resolved a number of complex issues with stakeholders including local, State, and federal agencies, Indian tribes, water agencies, and environmental non-governmental agencies.

As a first step, DWR used work group meetings and workshops to establish a common understanding of the various operational goals and benefits provided by the Oroville Facilities. These work groups, led by specialists from DWR’s Division of Environmental Services, under the direction of Chief **Barbara McDonnell**, completed approximately 180 study reports addressing environmental, recreation, cultural resources, and land use and management issues. A modeling team led by **Curtis Creel** from the Division of Operations and Maintenance was formed and developed a Statewide Operations model (CALSIM II), a Local Operations model (HYDROPS), and a Temperature Model (WQRRS) to support the preparation and compilation of the environmental and technical components of the license application.



*Above: During a recent Relicensing meeting, Executive Manager **Ralph Torres** (right) and the State Water Project Analysis Office’s **Mark Andersen** (center) negotiate a proposed Recreation Management Plan. Sitting behind Ralph, **Doug Rischbieter** of DWR’s Environmental Services Office is ready to provide technical support.*

*Intently focused on negotiation discussions are Program Manager **Rick Ramirez** and Senior Engineer **James Upholt** from DWR.*

Another significant component of the relicensing process is negotiation and preparation of a settlement agreement. Over the last eight months, **Raphael Torres**, Executive Manager of the Oroville Facilities Relicensing Program, has led DWR’s settlement negotiations with stakeholders participating in the relicensing process. A successful negotiation process will provide additional support for the license application and also allow DWR to address issues that are outside FERC’s jurisdiction.

Even as the license application process winds down, selected DWR staff will be preparing for the two-year FERC evaluation process that will culminate in a new license. The regulatory nature of the remaining process ensures that Assistant Chief Counsel **Ward Tabor** and the Office of the Chief Counsel will continue to play a vital role in advocating the merits of DWR’s application.

In summarizing the Program Rick says, “This has truly been a heroic effort by many DWR staff. When you look back over 50 years of operation and then extrapolate your studies over a new 50-year period, you suddenly find yourself concerned with 100 years of operation of one of the State’s premier engineering achievements. It’s been a daunting challenge. Nonetheless, I feel confident that DWR will be receiving the best possible outcome in a very difficult process primarily because of the dedication of the DWR team.”

Catch a Special Thrill for Kids Event

DWR's San Joaquin District employees participated in the fourth annual Catch a Special Thrill (C.A.S.T.) for Kids event on September 25 at Millerton Lake State Recreation Area near Fresno.

"It is rewarding to see C.A.S.T. alumni returning each year with the same enthusiasm as always, but with a great deal more confidence," said **Chief of San Joaquin District Paula Landis**. "It is obvious that the children look forward to this special event with anticipation. I am glad we are able to help make it happen for them."

The event, sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation—South-Central California Area Office (SCCAO), in conjunction with the C.A.S.T. Foundation, hosted almost 50 returning C.A.S.T. participants for a fun day of recreational, educational, and informational activities at the Lake.

In addition, 55 young persons were selected from the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the South San Joaquin Valley, Children's Hospital Central California, Fresno County Department of Children and Family Services, the San Joaquin River Intertribal Heritage Educational Corporation, and the Sierra Tribal Consortium, Inc. for a time of boating and fishing on the lake with local bass clubs and boaters.

After a free pancake breakfast and while children new to the program learned about boating and fishing, their families, friends, care givers, returning C.A.S.T. kids, volunteers, and invited guests participated in other onshore activities.

Smaller children were greeted by Smokey the Bear, Scruffy the Clown, Keiko the Clown, Seamore the Salmon, and George the Giraffe. The day concluded with closing ceremonies and awards presented to the participating children

*San Joaquin District Chief **Paula Landis** cheers U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner **John W. Keys** as he casts a fish at the DWR's fishing simulator booth.*



During the C.A.S.T. for Kids at Millerton Lake 2004, San Joaquin District volunteers and family included: (Left to Right) Back row: Karin Dulik and son Dilon; Michaela in Katie White (mom's arms); Kelly and husband Dana White; Ernie Taylor; Will Murray; Regina Geremiah; Tyler and Cyndy Moffett (mom); and David Lara. Front Row: Cameron, Kayli, and Kirsti White; Alicia and District Chief Paula Landis (mom).

San Joaquin District employees, including **Karen Dulik, Cindy Moffett, Ernie Taylor, Dana White, David Lara, and Chief Paula Landis** assisted at DWR's fishing simulator and craft booth.

In addition to DWR, other sponsors of the event included the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and a host of federal and local interests.



*(Left to Right) At the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement with the C.A.S.T. Foundation, partnership members included **Paul Romero**, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, **Raynor T. Tsuneyoshi**, Director of the Department of Boating and Waterways, **Joseph Grindstaff**, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Water Resources, **Banky Curtis**, Regional Manager of Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra Region's for the Department of Fish and Game, and **Jim Owens**, Executive Director of C.A.S.T. For Kids.*

On October 27, 2004, the Department of Water Resources along with the Departments of Fish and Game, Boating and Waterways, and Parks and Recreation, signed a partnership to provide quality recreational opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged children and to increase the awareness of all participants, parents, sportsmen, and volunteers, of the capabilities of children with disabilities.

Representing DWR at the event was **Chief Deputy Director Joseph Grindstaff**, who signed the Memorandum of Agreement with the Catch a Special Thrill (C.A.S.T.) Foundation. The foundation, which was started in the early 1990s, is dedicated to providing disabled and disadvantaged children with fishing experiences.

Governor's Visit to Resources Building



(Left to Right) Front Row: DWR's Jennifer Dong of the Personnel Office, Terry Schultze of the SWP Analysis Office, and Myra Galvez of the Personnel Office along with CeCe Fan of the Department of Conservation's Division of Recycling greet Governor Schwarzenegger along with other Resources Agency employees during his visit to the Resources Building on November 17.



Right: In celebration of Governor Schwarzenegger's first anniversary of his administration, he visited the Resources Agency building's employees. Resources Agency Undersecretary Karen Scarborough stands to the left of the Governor and Recycle Rex.



Above: Governor Swarzenegger thanked the Resources Agency employees for their work during his visit.

Social Security Maximum Wage Amount for 2005

By Jim Libonati

The 2005 maximum wage amount subject to Social Security withholding will be \$90,000, up from \$87,900 in 2004. There is no limitation on Medicare wages.

The employer and employee tax rates have not changed. The rates for each (the State and the employee) are:

Social Security 6.2% (12.4% total) up to \$90,000, plus
 1.45% (2.9% total) Medicare on all wages

For more information, visit the Social Security Administration Web site at:

<http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/factsheets/colafacts2005.htm>

Compassion for Others

by Cheryl Henderson

As a strong supporter of fundraisers, such as the March of Dimes' WalkAmerica and the Sacramento Zoo Zoom, **Kathryn Murray** of DWR's Management Services has walked more than 150 miles and raised more than \$19,000 in pledges during the last 17 years to help raise funds for non-profit organizations.

"Although I and my family of four children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild have been blessed with good health, I empathize with those who are less fortunate," said Kathryn. "I have a lot of compassion, especially for premature babies."

During the March of Dimes annual campaign, Kathryn finds sponsors within DWR for her participation in WalkAmerica, which is a principal fund-raiser for medical research and support for premature babies. She has raised at least \$1,000 during 13 of the past 17 years. For the 2004 WalkAmerica campaign, Kathryn raised the highest single DWR amount of \$1,626.

"I get my sponsors by sending emails, making and distributing flyers, and talking to people about the March of Dimes," said Kathryn. "During the March of Dimes season, I also encourage donations to the charity by wearing my sandwich board sign."

Kathryn participated in October at the 24th Annual Sacramento Zoo Zoom race, which is a fundraiser to support the zoo's Veterinary Hospital. Kathryn has participated in this event since 1988.

Kathryn also contributes paperback novels to the Legal Office's semi-annual book sale, which benefits the State Employees Food Drive. For the last three years, she has contributed at least four large grocery bags of paperback books per year.

Kathryn, who has worked for the State for more than 23 years, has spent two of those years with the Franchise Tax Board and 21 years with DWR. As an Office Assistant for DWR's Records Management fifth floor file station, she conducts electronic and hard copy searches for documents. She also delivers mail to



Kathryn Murray of Management Services enjoys wearing her poster sign to help raise funds for WalkAmerica.

"I empathize with those who are less fortunate," said Kathryn. "I have a lot of compassion, especially for premature babies."

fifth and sixth floor employees who are part of Engineering, Operations and Maintenance, and Technology Services divisions.

Away from work, Kathryn has enjoyed bowling and singing Christmas carols with the Board-N-Airs Choir in State buildings. Unfortunately, the Board-N-Airs disbanded last year. Kathryn also recently became a full member of Los Californianos, an organization made up of a small group of descendants of Spanish Alta Californians whose ancestors came to Alta California between 1769 and 1848.

"I encourage everyone to participate in WalkAmerica or other non-profit fundraisers because it will give you a good feeling," said Kathryn.

DWR Employee Sets Motorcycle Speed Record

by Don Strickland

On October 15, 2004, Skinner Fish Facility Supervisor **Jim Odom** from Delta Field Division set a world speed record on a “streamliner” motorcycle at Utah’s Bonneville Salt Flats, posting a two-run average of 328.304 miles per hour. That broke the 14-year-old record of 322 mph, putting Odom at the top of an elite group of motorcyclists.

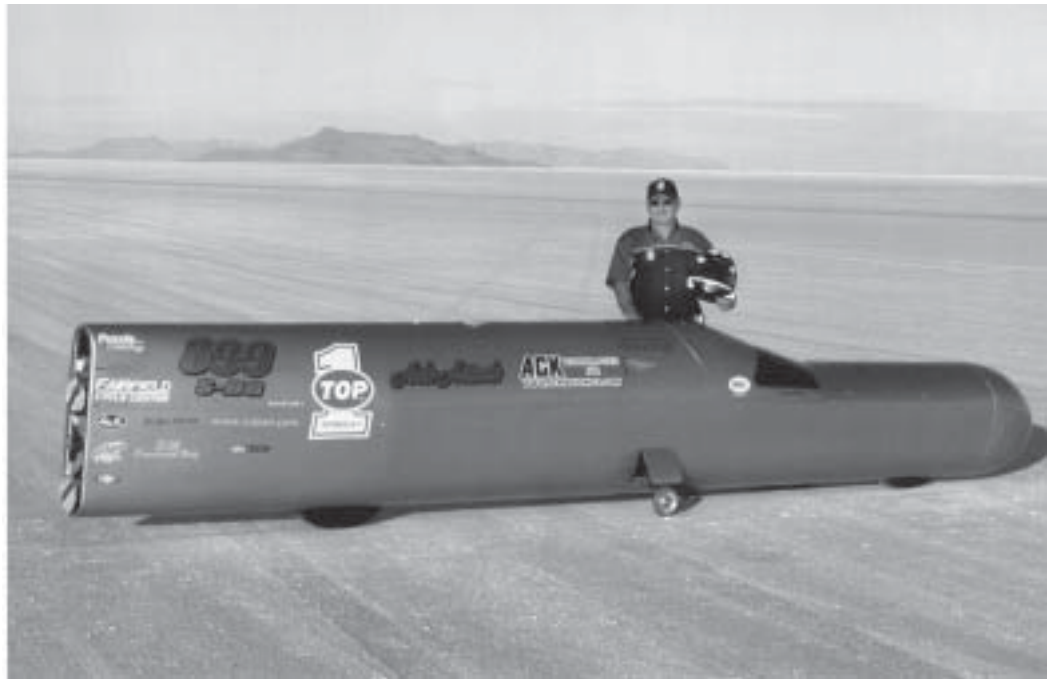
The 56-year-old Tracy resident, a former national dirt track champion, piloted the 3000 CC blown gas “Ack Attack” to the title in his rookie season as a Bonneville racer.

Designed and built by San Jose precision aircraft instrument manufacturer Mike Akatiff, the “Ack Attack” is a 700-plus horsepower machine pushed along by a pair of turbocharged four-cylinder Suzuki engines.

DWR NEWS/People caught up with Odom on his return from Bonneville for the following conversation.

Had you ever attempted this kind of record before...?

It was my first effort for a land speed record, involving a streamliner. I’ve been around motorcycles all my life. I raced for a living for about 15 years on what they call the “national dirt track series” and was in the top ranks for quite a few years, until I retired. But, I still stayed involved with motorcycles...and that’s how I got involved in this effort on a land speed bike.



Jim Odom at Utah’s Bonneville Salt Flats with the streamliner motorcycle he rode to a new land speed of 328.304 miles per hour. (Photo courtesy of Top Oil Products, Burlingame, CA)

What gave you the notion to try to go faster than anyone else...?

I was sitting around the campfire, talking with a bunch of guys...and, was given the opportunity to be involved with this effort. Just to be involved is great...to be asked to ride the bike—to be the pilot—was a great honor.

A lot of people go to Bonneville to try to set speed records. Is it unusual for a person like yourself...on your first time out...to accomplish what you did...?

Yes, it is. The designer/builder of the vehicle started on December 7th of 2002. Most of these projects take many, many years before they even hit the ground. He got held up about two months into the project on a tire issue. The bike was designed around the tires. Bike tires have never been designed to go as fast as we think this vehicle is capable of going. So, that became a big issue and kind of slowed down the project. Then, we found out that we could get some tires and got

going again. So, really and truthfully, hard work on the project has only been done for about 14-months. We came to Bonneville as rookies, went through all of what they call the "classifications" to get licensing to reach the speeds that we did. You have to start out at 125 miles per hour to prove you can handle the vehicle...then go up in steps...all the way through what they call an "A" license to what I have now, which is called an "unlimited" license. That's above 299 miles per hour. There's only been a handful of guys that have done that, even in cars (get an unlimited license in a rookie year). I'm probably the first motorcycle guy to ever do it. I went through the "two club" (200 miles per hour), got inducted, and also the "three club" all in one season, actually, all in one event.

Now, when you set the record of 328 miles per hour, you actually went faster than that, right...?

Yeah, we'd been hitting the 330 mile per hour mark and were capable of "getting back," meaning backing that up with two consistent runs over that speed. So, in the first run that I made on the day, I broke the record. My top speed was actually clocked at 336 miles per hour. That's about the fastest anyone's ever been on a motorcycle. Sam Wheeler of Los Angeles is another gentleman who's been in that range...332 average, about 334 top speed. On my second run, I was actually attaining faster speeds but on the backup run that we need for an official record my bike had a failure about halfway through what they call the "measured mile." So, I coasted and still went 326 miles per hour. The two runs averaged out at 328.

You had a pretty interesting experience on one of your practice runs, right...?

Yeah, in September, we had salt problems...half an inch of water on the salt...which made conditions unrideable. We sat there for four days while conditions dried up and they finally started running parts of the event. We made a rookie decision to make a run. We were the first streamlined motorcycle on the salt and we ran about 278 miles an hour...right out of the box. It was pretty scary, pretty hairy, but we did it...and felt that maybe we had a chance to go for what they call the

"ultimate land speed record for a wheel-driven motorcycle." Sam Wheeler saw what we did so he went out and posted a mark of about 303 mph. There was a ten-thousand dollar purse on the line and that makes you want to run a little faster.

So we analyzed the situation, sat there and talked in the pits, and decided to make another run and go for the record. We had a fairly good start, hitting the first three-mile mark at about 278. But we still had two miles to get to the spot where they were going to clock our speed...the "flying mile." We had some wind gusts that were really giving us problems, plus the salt was slippery from the water problems. Well, a crosswind gust hit me and blew the bike into the air sideways and I lost control at about 330 miles per hour. The parachutes deployed, the bike was flung back down to the ground, and I skidded on my side for about a mile. When it stopped, I popped open the canopy and said, "Man, I'm touching the ground...I'm glad to be here."

What was going through your mind when you realized you were going to crash at that speed...?

Well, you don't have any control at that point...so, I was just hoping that all my safety equipment worked like it should. It all did and we came to rest a mile away. I jumped out of the bike and checked our vitals. Everything was good. We did damage the bike enough that we took it home, pulled it apart, put it all back together with a new facelift and got back to the salt flats three and a half weeks later to set a new record.

Will you be going back to Bonneville...?

Yes. We plan to go back to try becoming the first motorcycle to get to 400 miles an hour.

Do you realize that you're becoming something of a poster boy for the over 50 set...?

Yeah, that's true. Actually, I'm one of the junior members on my crew. But I don't feel that youth ever dies when you're doing something exciting, something you believe in and want to do. I'm just fortunate to be in good enough shape to do it...and to be capable of doing it.

Groundwater Resources Association Honors DWR for Major Report

The Groundwater Resources Association (GRA) of California recently honored the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for a major report the department developed on California groundwater.

The association presented its 2004 Kevin J. Neese Award to DWR, citing its Bulletin 118-2003, "California Groundwater," as fostering understanding of groundwater.

Over 200 pages long, the report provides a wealth of technical, policy and management information concerning California groundwater basins, as well as information on use, conservation and management of groundwater resources. In a supplement to the bulletin, descriptive information about California's 515 groundwater basins is available on DWR's Web site at: [http://www.groundwater.water.ca.gov/bulletin 118](http://www.groundwater.water.ca.gov/bulletin%20118)

Groundwater is one of California's great natural resources. In years of average rain and snowfall, groundwater meets about 30 percent of California's water needs. In drought years, that percentage can exceed 40 percent.

The report projects that groundwater demand will increase as California's population grows and as the Earth's climate continues to change.

The award was presented at the association's recent 13th annual meeting. The award was named in honor of a widely-respected GRA groundwater attorney and co-author of the first GRA California Groundwater Management handbook.



Left to Right: Carl Hauge, DWR's Chief Hydrogeologist and co-author of Bulletin 118, receives the "2004 Kevin J. Neese Award on behalf of the Department from Tom Johnson, President of the Groundwater Resources Association of California. (Photo courtesy of GRAC)

GRA President **Tom Johnson** said Bulletin 118 is a significant achievement, calling it "one of the most useful documents available that deals with groundwater."

"It illuminates so many of the issues surrounding groundwater and groundwater management in California," said Johnson.

Carl Hauge, DWR's Chief Hydrogeologist and a co-author of Bulletin 118, accepted the award on behalf of **DWR Director Lester Snow** and the Department's groundwater staff. He said it is the first statewide inventory of California's groundwater since 1975. Hauge conveyed Snow's message of support for GRA's efforts to improve understanding and management of groundwater.

Copies of the report are available for interested individuals and organizations through DWR's Publications Section at (916) 653-1097.

DWR's Professional Engineer and Registered Geologist Graduates



Kelly Lawler
Southern District
Engineer
PE Grad, January 2004



Tim Ross
Southern District
Engineering Geologist
RG Grad, March 2004

Twenty-five Years of Service

CORRECTION

David Scruggs photo was printed incorrectly in the Fall 2004 Issue of *DWR NEWS/People*. Our apologies.



Brian Depuy
Engineering
Construction Management
Supervisor
December 2004



Jon Edwards
CERS
Associate Hydroelectric Power
Utility Engineer
October 2004



Danny Erreca
San Joaquin Field Division
Chief HEP Operator LT
November 2004



David Scruggs
DPLA-San Joaquin District
Senior Land and Water Use
Scientist
October 2004



Debbie Greco
Delta Field Division
Office Technician (Typing)
December 2004



Jeff Howard
Safety of Dams
Senior Engineering Geologist
November 2004



Norm Hughes
Public Affairs Office
Senior Photographer
January 2005



Sharon Lopez
Engineering
Office Assistant
November 2004



Herman Phillips
Flood Management
Water Resources Engineering
Associate
July 2004



Nancy Quan
State Water Project Analysis
Office
Chief, Bay Delta Hearings and
Program Development
November 2004



Pete Rabbon
Reclamation Board
General Manager
December 2004



Gary Severns
Delta Field Division
Senior Hydroelectric Plant
Operator
December 2004

DWR's 2004 Apprentice Graduates

DWR congratulates the following 13 Apprentices graduating by December of 2004.

DWR's Operations and Maintenance Apprentice Program was created in 1972. During the three years of training as Utility Craftsworker or Operator and four years of training as Mechanic or Electrician, the Apprentice must complete on-the-job training, classroom training, and home study. Apprentices also take a final exam every six months.

To learn more about DWR's Apprentice program, visit the Web site at www.apprtrain.water.ca.gov.



Martin Alvarado
San Luis Field Division
Utility Craftsworker



Eddie Dix
San Joaquin Field Division
Hydroelectric Plant Mechanic



Chris Fernandez
Southern Field Division
Utility Craftsworker



Michael Hindman
Southern Field Division
Utility Craftsworker



Brett Lowes
San Joaquin Field Division
Hydroelectric Plant Electrician



Jack Montgomery
San Luis Field Division
Hydroelectric Plant Operator



Rudi Munoz
San Luis Field Division
Utility Craftsworker



Logan Riffenburg
Southern Field Division
Utility Craftsworker



Raymundo Romo
Oroville Field Division
Hydroelectric Plant Mechanic



Ron Rushing, Jr.
San Luis Field Division
Hydroelectric Plant Mechanic



Anthony Schnepel
Oroville Field Division
Hydroelectric Plant Operator



Michele Tavis
San Joaquin Field Division
Hydroelectric Plant Operator



Kevin Wellsand
Oroville Field Division
Hydroelectric Plant Operator

Retirements

To **Sarah Ayres**, her greatest accomplishment in her more than 37 years with the State was bringing cohesion to her office.

"In my last position as Administrative Officer and Supervisor of DWR's Legal support staff, my number one responsibility was to make sure assignments were completed," said Sarah, who retired from DWR's Office of the Chief Counsel in December. "By making sure that the little things got done, thus it would make things easier on my staff, attorneys, and other Legal staff."

Sarah's 18 years with DWR began in 1972 as a Stenographer for the Accounting Office. In June of 1988, she was DWR's Legal Support Supervisor. As she acquired more assignments in the Legal Office, she eventually became an Administrative Officer I.

Before beginning her DWR career, Sarah's State service began as a student in 1959, which was the summer between her junior and senior year in high school. In 1963, she was hired at the State Personnel Board as a Clerk Typist, a

classification now known as Office Technician. By 1969, she transferred to the California Highway Patrol. She worked two years for DWR, then she went to the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) from 1974 to 1988. After obtaining legal training with Caltrans, Sarah returned to DWR to work at the Legal Office.



Sarah Ayres

"I really love my job and people that I work with; however, it is my understanding that there is life after retirement, so I need to go out and find out what that life is like," said Sarah. "I've got a lot of different ideas about what I want to do, such as remodel my house, do crafts, travel a little, spend time with my cats and dog, and do some volunteer work."

MAILING LIST UPDATE

DWR NEWS | *People*

MAILING LIST UPDATE

1/05

To Correct or Delete your name from our DWR NEWS/People Newsletter mailing list, please return this card by **March 1**. Thank you.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ID Number _____

Any questions about this update, please contact Maggie Macias at (916) 653-8743 or email at dwrpeople@water.ca.gov

☐ Correct newsletter mailing address to new address above.

☐ Delete name from newsletter mailing list.

Email _____ Phone Number _____ (optional)

Retirements *continued*

From DWR's first female Auditor to the first Administrative Officer of Information Systems and Services Office's (now Division of Technology Services), **'Karen Eggen's** more than 32 years with DWR were filled with a variety of assignments.

"The best part of my State service was working on non-profit events, such as United Way, March of Dimes, Holiday Food Drive, and the Heart Walk," said Karen. "It gave me great satisfaction to be able to make a difference in the community. It was also a great way to meet other DWR employees."

After nine months at the Department of Consumer Affairs part-time, Karen began her DWR career in 1971 as a Clerk Typist and later became Accounting Technician for Fiscal Services' Accounting Office. She typed travel advances, travel expense claims, and salary advances.

In 1980, Karen joined the Internal Audit Office as a Management Services Technician and later a Staff Services Analyst. As an Auditor, Karen audited field divisions' administrative and purchasing documents.

"When I joined DWR's Internal Audit Office, I remember that non-support staff positions were not allowed to type as part of their assignments," said Karen. "Today, with personal computers located on almost all desks, most employees are required to type to complete their assignments."

From Staff Services Analyst to Regional Administrative Officer II, Karen worked for the Computer Services Office.

Karen later transferred to an Associate Information Systems Analyst for the Division of Technology Services, where she reviewed and learned about various software packages.

"It was lots of fun assisting with the setup of surveys with the software package called Zoomerang," said Karen. Through Zoomerang, DWR employees have taken surveys, such as Aquanet's name and logo selection.

Karen has also taught part-time the Career Planning Workshops and other DWR training classes. She prepared "The Microsoft Tip of the Week" during exchange roll-out and was Editor of the Information Systems and Services Office's Newsletter.

With Karen's retirement in December, she now plans for her own massage business called "Massage With Kare." She will also spend more time with her two granddaughters.

"I also plan on doing lots of dancing, hiking, camping, traveling, and being able to do absolutely nothing," said Karen.



Karen Eggen



Mail to: Department of Water Resources
Public Affairs Office
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1104-1
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Maggie Macias

MAILING LIST UPDATE

Chris Button of the Oroville Field Division turned off her computer and retired on December 19. Then, she picked up a hammer and went to work building houses for Habitat for Humanity.

Her home-building charity avocation is likely to keep both she and her husband, Don, busy. They already have logged seven years as part-time volunteers, building basic affordable 1,050-square-foot homes for low income families in the Chico area. She and Don serve on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity in Butte County and Oroville.

"I'm pretty good with a hammer," chuckled Chris, retiring after almost 20 years of State service, 15 with DWR's Oroville Field Division.

Chris came to DWR in 1989 after working part-time as an Office Assistant for the Department of Fish and Game at the Feather River Fish Hatchery. Chris has enjoyed her coworkers and playing a productive role in Oroville Field Division through her 15 years.

"I was the office support person for Plant Maintenance for several years before moving to the Civil Maintenance office support and now do both," said Chris. "I won't miss the work but will miss the people I work with. I've been lucky to have a very good bunch of coworkers who try their best to get the job done."

"My husband and I plan on doing some traveling to see kids and grandkids in North Carolina and other relatives on the East Coast," she said. "We are also very involved in Habitat for Humanity. We are just starting to build the first Habitat house in Oroville, and more in Chico."

On the horizon is a possible trip to South America to work on Habitat for Humanity projects there.



Chris Button

"I can't believe I didn't come to DWR a long, long time ago." That's one sentiment from Human Resources Chief Alison Raymer, looking back on a 38 year career in State service.

"Through the years, I worked in some terrific jobs with some great people," said Raymer, "but DWR is the tops."

Alison officially retired on December 17, 2004, after working in nine different State agencies, in 14 civil service classifications, under seven governors.

When she started in 1966 as a Junior Typist/Clerk at the State Personnel Board, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown was governor. After a brief hiatus in her State career, during which Alison worked for Western Airlines as a flight attendant, she watched governors come and go as she moved steadily upward through positions with Cal Trans, The Department of Public Health, Department of Rehabilitation, Developmental Services, Department of Health Services (Toxics), Department of Education, and the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

After 13 years as the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Personnel Officer, Raymer spent her last three and a half years of government service in the newly-created position of DWR Human Resources Chief (Management Services Division).

Some of Alison's DWR accomplishments included being the United Way Campaign Department Chair in 2002, DWR Management Development Team Mentor in 2003, Strategic Business Plan Update Team Member in 2003, and Future Operations Program Change Management Team Lead. She also developed and presented all employee information forums on the State's layoff process and its impact on DWR in 2003.

A native (third generation) Sacramentan, Alison moved to England for nine months in 1959 where her father was on assignment with the Douglas Aircraft Corporation. Returning to the Sacramento area, Raymer graduated from Elk Grove High School before attending Sacramento City College and beginning State service.

Alison's husband of 33 years, Mike, is also retiring (from the State Attorney General's Office). "Neither of us plans to be bored," said Alison. "We have lots on our agenda including travel, home projects, hobbies, and using the sailboat we've had for years. I'll also be spending time as a retired annuitant, working with the Future Operations Program as a member of the Change Management Team."

"The State is a great employer," said Alison. "Because we're in the State capitol, there's a lot going on and a lot we can learn, if we want to. State service has been good to me and I hope I've given something back. I have no regrets as I look back at the past 38 years. I'd do it all over again and wouldn't change a thing."



Alison Raymer

Promotions

Joanne Alcala
San Joaquin Field Division
Warehouse Worker

Martin Alvarado
San Luis Field Division
Utility Craftsworker

Earl Anderson Jr.
Southern Field Division
HEP* Electrical Apprentice

Emilio Aviles III
San Joaquin Field Division
Service Assistant***

Gary Bardini
Flood Management
Principal Engineer

Raylene Barton
San Luis Field Division
Management Services
Technician

Mike Bingaman
Management Services
Business Service Officer I

Jacqueline Bolf
Oroville Field Division
Water Resources Technician II

Rebecca Boyer
Executive
Executive Secretary I

Richard Breuer
Environmental Services
Environmental Program
Manager I (Supervisory)

Jason Bunce
San Joaquin Field Division
Service Assistant***

Michael Cardoza
San Luis Field Division
Senior HEP* Operator

Philip Carey
Flood Management
Assistant Utility Craftsworker
Supt.

Larry Carmo
San Luis Field Division
HEP* Electrical Supervisor

Bryan Carter
Southern Field Division
Assistant Utility Craftsworker
Supt.

Pamela Casselman
Central District
Water Resources Technician II

Bradley Cavallo
Environmental Services
Senior Environmental Scientist

Milan Cernosek
Southern District
Senior Engineer

John Coleman
Operations & Maintenance
Water & Power Dispatcher

Arin Conner
Environmental Services
Environmental Scientist

Peter Coombe
Northern District
Environmental Scientist

Eddie Cressy
Southern Field Division
HEP* Mechanical Apprentice

Daniel Ellison
Delta Field Division
Service Assistant***

L. D. Elmore
Delta Field Division
Chief HEP* Operator

Joel Farias Jr
Flood Management
Utility Craftsworker Supv.

Stephen Ford
Environmental Services
Environmental Program
Manager II

William Forsythe
Engineering
Supervising Engineer

William Gow
Engineering
Senior Electrical Engineer
(Hydraulic Structures)

Alison Groom
Northern District
Research Analyst II (GIS)

Curt Hand
San Joaquin Field Division
Utility Craftsworker Supv.

Jewel Huckaby
Delta Field Division
Service Assistant***

Russell Kiriu
Management Services
Staff Services Manager II
(Supv.)

Michele Leonard
Southern Field Division
Water Resources Technician II

Diana Leung
Fiscal Services
Senior Accounting Officer

Xiaojun Li
Public Affairs Office
Graphic Designer III

Brett Lowes
San Joaquin Field Division
HEP* Electrician I

William Mahon
Management Services
Associate Business
Management Analyst

Lonny Mann
San Joaquin Field Division
Utility Craftsworker

Jennifer Metcalf
San Joaquin Field Division
Water Resources Engineering
Associate

Jingchao Mi
State Water Project Analysis
Office
Senior HEP** Utility Engineer

Anthony "Bud" Miller
Management Services
Associate Business
Management Analyst

Robert Moeller
Fiscal Services
Accounting Administrator

Jack Montgomery
San Luis Field Division
HEP* Operator

Barbara Moore
CERS
Business Service Assistant

Cheryl Moore
San Joaquin District
Administrative Officer II,
Resources Agency

Sheryl Moore
Delta Field Division
Health and Safety Officer

Phyllis Morgan
Delta Field Division
Business Service Officer I

Jenniffer Murray
Flood Management
Associate Governmental
Program Analyst

Steven Nichols
Southern Field Division
HEP* Electrician II

Anna Ortiz
Engineering
Engineer

William Osuch
Oroville Field Division
Service Assistant***

Cindy Owen
Southern Field Division
Water Resources Technician II

Aaron Page
Delta Field Division
Service Assistant***

David Paulson
SWP Analysis Office
Supervising Engineer

Richard Perkins
San Joaquin Field Division
HEP* Electrician II

Robert Pierotti
Southern District
Supervising Engineering
Geologist

Robby Riedlinger
Oroville Field Division
Senior HEP**Utility Engineer

Alisa Rockwell
San Joaquin Field Division
Service Assistant***

Jessica Roles
Oroville Field Division
Associate Governmental Program
Analyst

Evelyn Rucker
Executive
Office Technician (Typing)

Frederick Sage
Safety of Dams
Principal Engineer

Jorge Salcedo
Delta Field Division
HEP* Electrician II

John Sanchez
Technology Services
Associate Information
Systems Analyst

Anthony Schnepel
Oroville Field Division
HEP* Operator

April Scholzen
Northern District
Water Resources Technician II

Shaileenjeet Singh
Fiscal Services
Executive Secretary I

James Smith
Southern Field Division
Associate HEP** Utility Engineer

Linda Solomon
Oroville Field Division
Chief HEP* Operator

James Stephenson
San Luis Field Division
HEP* Electrician II

Derek Stewart
Operations & Maintenance
Associate HEP** Utility Engineer

Eric Tate
San Joaquin Field Division
Service Assistant***

Michele Tavis
San Joaquin Field Division
HEP* Operator

Alfredo Toy, Jr.
San Joaquin Field Division
Service Assistant***

Donald Walker
Engineering
Senior Engineer

Teresa Wegener
Planning & Local Assistance
Senior Engineer

Kevin Wellsand
Oroville Field Division
HEP* Operator

Jean Woods
Central District
Staff Land & Water Use Scientist

Retirements

Ernest Carmona
San Luis Field Division
HEP* Maintenance
Superintendent

Robert Danner
Management Services
Inspector of Automotive
Equipment

Geoffrey Dyer
San Luis Field Division
Senior HEP* Operator

J. N. Eaves
Northern District
Engineering Geologist

Gary Gilbreath
Southern District
Water Resources Engineering
Associate

Gary Hester
Flood Management
Principal Engineer

Sean Impeartrice
San Luis Field Division
Office Assistant

Gerald Johnson
Oroville Field Division
Lead Groundskeeper

Luther Knock
State Water Project Analysis
Office
Senior Engineer

Om Lakhota
Engineering
Senior Electrical Engineer
(Hydraulic Structures)

Patricia Lampron
Engineering
Staff Services Analyst

Lloyd Landers
Southern Field Division
Utility Craftsworker

Doris Leonetti
Fiscal Services
Accountant I

Kathleen Lopez
Oroville Field Division
Water Resources Technician II

Eva McClelland
San Luis Field Division
Guide II, Historical
Monument

Gerald Miesner
Delta Field Division
HEP* Mechanic I

Terry Mills
Environmental Services
Environmental Program
Manager I (Supv.)

James Murphy Jr
Southern Field Division
Utility Craftsworker Supt.

Edgar Najera
State Water Project Analysis
Office
Associate HEP** Utility
Engineer

Jimmie Phillips
San Luis Field Division
HEP* Operator

Frank Politelli
Southern Field Division
Building Maintenance Worker

Jerry Raasch
Delta Field Division
Utility Craftsworker Supt.

Stephen H. Shelton
Oroville Field Division
Utility Craftsworker Supv.

Ruth Thomley
Operations & Maintenance
Office Technician (Typing)

Willow Tubbs
Technology Services
Office Assistant (Typing)

New Hires

Mohammed Anwar
SWP Analysis Office
Engineer

Brian Barrick
Fiscal Services
Staff Services Analyst

Susie Beesley
Management Services
Associate Governmental
Program Analyst

Linda Cadano
Management Services
Personnel Specialist

Vicki Camp
Fiscal Services
Staff Services Analyst

Mark Chadwick
San Joaquin District
Staff Information Systems
Analyst

Ko-Ching Chang
Planning & Local Assistance
Engineer

Helen Chau
Fiscal Services
Associate Governmental
Program Analyst

Penny Chiu
Technology Services
Assistant Information Systems
Analyst

Sue Daum
Management Services
Associate Governmental
Program Analyst

Corey Domino
Bay-Delta Office
Support Services Assistant

Carla Elder
Fiscal Services
Accountant Trainee

Demetrius Eugene
Southern Field Division
Materials & Stores Specialist

Hallie Fisher
Executive
Staff Services Manager I

Jennifer Geregthy
Management Services
Labor Relations Specialist

Jeff Graves
San Joaquin Field Division
Utility Craftsworker

Wayne Lindsey
Delta Field Division
HEP* Operator

Yi-Shiu Liu
State Water Project Analysis
Office
Research Analyst II
(Economics)

David Martasian
Bay-Delta Office
Environmental Scientist

Dean Messer
Environmental Services
Senior Environmental
Scientist

Dennis Miguel
Delta Field Division
Utility Craftsworker

Subhendu Mishra
Flood Management
Engineer

Lorraine Pendlebury
Safety of Dams
Executive Secretary I

Antonio Perez
Fiscal Services
Associate Accounting Analyst

Tomas Perez
Management Services
Personnel Specialist

Kathy Do Pham
Southern District
Water Resources Technician I

Catherine Reiner
Environmental Services
Environmental Scientist

Yvonne Robbins
Delta Field Division
Warehouse Worker

Robin Rodriguez
Management Services
Office Assistant (Typing)

Mary Sanchez
Fiscal Services
Accounting Officer

Patricia Schroeder
Fiscal Services
Management Services
Technician

Yvonne Simmons
Delta Field Division
Warehouse Worker

Christopher Souza
Delta Field Division
Utility Craftsworker

Jillian Stanley
Management Services
Office Assistant (Typing)

Michael Strazzo
Management Services
Staff Services Manager III

Yu An Wang
Engineering
Senior Architect

Victoria Whipkey
Management Services
Staff Services Analyst

*Hydroelectric Plant ** Hydroelectric Power

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DWR'S PERSONNEL OFFICE

Obituaries

Marge Hutchinson, a DWR retiree, died on November 16 at the age of 78 after a three year battle with cancer.

Marge was a 57 year resident of the Sacramento area. She was known as the life of every party.

Her 37 years of State service began as Junior Drafting Aid with the Department of Transportation. She transferred to the Division of Forestry in 1958, then she began her DWR service in 1963 as a Delineator with the Division of Engineering. She later worked in Executive, the State Water Project Analysis Office, and the Division of Operations and Maintenance. In 1981, she was promoted to Associate Governmental Program Analyst. She became Administrative Officer II in 1983 for the Environmental Services Office. In 1988, she transferred to Operations and Maintenance, where she remained until her retirement in 1989. She also worked as a Retired Annuitant for the Divisions of Operations and Maintenance and Engineering.

Marge is survived by a daughter, a grandson, and two great-grandchildren.

Ruth Mae Kenney, a DWR retiree, died at home on November 4 at the age of 83.

Ruth, who was born in Oil City, Pennsylvania, also lived in Buffalo, New York before moving west in 1954.

Her DWR career began in January of 1962 as a Senior Account Clerk. Ruth retired from DWR in 1980. She also worked as a Retired Annuitant for the State Lottery in 1987.

Ruth's love for music led her to play the piano. During the last 15 years, she donated her time to sing and play at senior centers, retirement centers, and nursing homes.

She is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.



Margaret Ann "Marge" Hutchinson

Donald Massard, a DWR retiree, died in Sacramento on October 19 at the age of 70.

A native of Denver, Colorado, Donald was raised in Grand Junction, Colorado and was a resident of Sacramento since 1962. He was also retired from the Air Force.

Donald's more than 25 years of State service began at the State Controller's Office as a Clerk Typist II. He was then promoted to Accounting Technician and later Claim Auditor. Donald joined DWR's Fiscal Services in April of 1990 as an Accountant I for the Accounts Payable Section. He retired in July of 1997.

Donald is survived by his wife Eleanor of almost 39 years. His interment was at the East Lawn Sierra Hills Cemetery.

Jim Schindler, Real Estate Branch Chief, died of cancer on November 15 at the age of 57.

Jim graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a Bachelors of Science degree.

His State career began with the Department of Transportation in 1979 as an Assistant Right of Way Agent.

In 1981, he transferred to DWR as an Assistant Right of Way Agent in the Division of Land and Right of Way. He was promoted to Associate Land Agent in 1983 and Senior Land Agent in 1987.

He received the Director's Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding contributions to the Coastal Branch Phase II Project in 1998.

He became Supervising Land Agent (Supervisory) in April of 2000. He worked as acting Chief of the Land and Right of Way Office from July of 2003 to November of 2003.

"Jim was not only a respected co-worker, but a friend and a mentor," said Scott Martin, who worked almost 11 years with Jim in Land and Right of Way. "He will be greatly missed at DWR."

Jim is survived by his wife Debbie and three children.



Jim Schindler

Obituaries *continued*

by Pete Weisser

Larry Filby, a State retiree with 31 years service and a longtime highly respected film producer, Graphics Services manager and computer expert with DWR, died at the age of 69 on October 29 at his Davis home after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Larry, who was born in Des Moines, Iowa, earned a degree in film writing and movie production at the University of Iowa in 1957. He began his graphics career as a film producer for Iowa State University.

In 1962, he managed the film production unit for Aerojet-General's Sacramento plant when it was producing rocket engines for the NASA space program. Previously, he was a film editor and script writer at North American Aviation in Ohio.

Larry's DWR career began in 1969 as a Radio, Television and Motion Picture Specialist. He later became Manager of Graphic Services. Self-effacing personally, Larry took great pride in managing what he called "the best, most professional" film, art and graphic design unit in California State government.

As a longtime Manager of DWR's Graphic Services unit, he supervised the production of many creative films and videos promoting the work and programs of DWR. Film topics included the California State Water Project's construction and operations, flood emergencies and water conservation.

In the 1990s, Larry left his management post to take on a new challenge: He became a pioneering technical expert in computers for DWR's Office of Water Education (now known as the Public Affairs Office).

As an Associate and later Staff Information Systems Analyst (Specialist), he was a leading authority on emerging information technology, from both policy and technical perspectives. He transformed the Office of Water Education into a highly-computerized operation, enhancing its creative capability and productivity, especially for the artists and designers, but also for writers and other staffers. He tirelessly worked to upgrade and modernize his unit's computer status and encourage effective computer use by staff. Through Larry's efforts, DWR was one of the first State Departments to go on-line with its homepage in January of 1995. He also made major contributions toward the original development of the DWR home page.

"Aside from his prodigious technical abilities in both film and computers, Larry was a creative, intelligent and nurturing manager and a perceptive, stimulating and cheerful co-worker," said Pete Weisser, a senior DWR Information Officer who supervised Filby in the 1990s. "Larry was an appreciative, as well as expert, devotee of film and graphic arts."

Larry retired from DWR in December of 2000. He later worked as a Retired Annuitant.

Larry is survived by his wife Sandy of 14 years, two children, two stepchildren, and four grandchildren.

His service was held on November 5 at the Episcopal Church of St. Martin in Davis.

The Sacramento Bee featured an obituary column on Larry Filby on November 4.



Larry Filby

Birth Announcements

Congratulations to DWR Parents:

Randy Beckwith, an Engineer with the Division of Environmental Services, has a daughter named Cecilia Ava, who was born on September 4 weighing 8 pounds and measuring 22 inches long.

Tanya Veldhuizen, an Environmental Scientist with the Division of Environmental Services, has a son named Collin David, who was born on September 17 weighing 7 pounds, 5 1/2 ounces and measuring 19 inches long.

Katie Wadsworth, Staff Environmental Scientist with the Division of Environmental Services, has a son named Evan William who was born on November 24 weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 21 1/2 inches long.

DWR MISSION

Statement

To manage the water resources
of California in cooperation
with other agencies,
to benefit the State's people,
and to protect, restore,
and enhance the natural
and human environments.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA • DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

DWR NEWS/People
Public Affairs Office
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1104-1
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001